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THE INDEPENDENT AND CONSERVATIVE PRESS OF CANADA

—ON—

THE MOWAT GOVERNMENT.

A FAVORABLE VERDICT.

The "Mail" on the Financial Administration of the Province.

On April 11th, 1890, the *Mail* said editorially :—"The Government can also *make out a good case for itself in regard to its administration of the finances.* After dealing liberally by the municipalities and exhibiting a creditable enterprise in building railways and erecting public institutions, Mr. Mowat is able to show a comfortable surplus. Instead of having a surplus of five or six millions in the treasury, Quebec has a debt of thirty millions, and, in spite of the direct taxes imposed on commercial corporations and of other revenue-raising devices, a fresh loan is inevitable. It must also be admitted that Mr. Mowat has passed many progressive measures affecting the general interests of the community, AND THAT, ON THE WHOLE, HIS MANAGEMENT HAS BEEN CLEAN AND FREE FROM SCANDAL. *These are* POWERFUL *reasons for* GIVING HIM A NEW TERM."

In an editorial on Feb. 13, 1890, it also said : " . . . The Ontario Government's management of the finances has been *thrifty, judicious and clean.*"

When the Mowat Government was returned to power four years ago the *Mail* had this to say :—"Mr. Mowat's victory is due in the main to the fact that the people have confidence in his individual probity. His administration of affairs has been singularly free from scandal, and it must be admitted also that his legislation has been progressive, and, on the whole, well in accord with the spirit of the people and their institutions "

A Contrast with Quebec.

The Montreal *Gazette*, the ablest Conservative journal in Canada, says :—"On the whole we are spending two and a half millions annually more than Ontario, and how long we should continue to maintain this ratio is a problem well worthy the serious attention of those who take an interest in our public affairs. It follows, of course, that Quebec collects a larger revenue than the sister province. Ontario depends for her income principally upon three sources, the Dominion subsidy, the license tax and the revenue from crown lands ; while Quebec, over and above these, has been compelled to levy tribute upon commercial corporations, and to impose a tax upon all trades and professions."

The Montreal "Witness."

Montreal *Witness* (Independent), Dec. 27th, 1893 :—"Sir Oliver Mowat has given the Province of Ontario twenty-one years of administration so honest and economical, so capable and so free even from ill report, that his political foes have been constrained to praise both him and his administration. If the Ontario exchequer is to-day that of a wealthy Province, when all other Provinces are plunging deeper and deeper into public debt, it is owing to the just and economical government of Sir Oliver Mowat."

The "Montreal Insurance Chronicle."

The *Montreal Insurance and Finance Chronicle*, April 15th, 1894 :—"The annual statement of the Treasurer of Ontario, even if the criticisms of the opponents of the

Government are correct, is one to make the people of this Province acutely envious. . . Apart from all political considerations, it is generally admitted that whatever other sins may be laid to the charge of the veteran, Sir Oliver Mowat, he cannot be accused of extravagance."

A Nova Scotia Opinion.

The *Halifax Chronicle* :—" The idea seems to be everywhere that the Mowat administration is absolutely certain of a return to office. This belief is based upon the fact that Ontario, alone of all the Provinces, has for twenty-five years been governed without the shadow of a scandal."

Sir Oliver Mowat's Record.

Toronto *Evening News* (Independent Conservative), Nov. 22nd, 1893 :—" It does not require another triumph at the polls to secure an honorable place in Canadian history for the Little Premier. He has already held office for a longer period than any other head of a Government in the Empire. He has blocked Federal attempts to encroach on the legislative rights of the provinces. He has won a victory which established Ontario's title to a territory enormous in extent and rich in resources. During his term of office a system of prisons, hospitals and asylums has been established that is at least the equal of that possessed by any other state in the world. New Parliament buildings have been erected which are the pride of every Ontarion. And in all the time that he has held office there has been no serious charge of boodling laid against either himself or any member of his Government. With a record such as this Sir Oliver, while naturally anxious to add one more victory to his credit, can afford to look forward to the approaching contest with comparative indifference regarding the result."

Efficient, Pure and Economical Government.

The Toronto *Star* (Independent), Nov. 22nd, 1893 :—" Ontario will hearken to the plea of her Grand Old Man not only from sympathy, but because he has served her well, because his administration has been careful, economical, honest and wise. It would not profit the Province to change its government as the parties are at present constituted, for one side contains many men of acknowledged ability, while the other side is distinguished by a remarkable lack of men fitted to carry on a Government. It would be an ungrateful, ungraceful act to drive Sir Oliver Mowat from power to give the Government into the hands of such men as sit on the other side of the House. His hair has whitened, and his frame has grown feeble in the service of the province ; for Ontario's sake he gave up an honorable position on the bench and the practice of a profession that would have brought him immense wealth ; he has given efficient, pure and economical government. Let not Ontario show ingratitude and folly by defeating the oldest, ablest, and purest statesman in the land."

And again on Jan. 16th, 1894 :—" Ontario may well be proud of her Premier, Canada's Grand Old Man. He has done a noble work for the province, and is a sturdy patriot, upholding the honor, integrity and capabilities of his country with unfaltering faith and ringing declarations. Sir Oliver Mowat has lived an active life, and has not spared himself in the service of his country. He has grown old, and yet in his advanced years he is able to speak for an hour and a half, dealing vigorously with political questions of the day. Well may his party applaud and revere him, and even the members of the P. P. A. cannot help but admire him for the fearless, outspoken position he took in opposition to them."

The Binder Twine Industry Approved.

Orangeville Sun (Conservative):—"No exhibition at the fair received more notice from the farmers than the binder twine shown by the Government of Ontario, and all were favorably impressed with its fine quality. The question of the best disposition to be

made of prison labor has been the subject of much anxious thought by all Governments, and in selecting the manufacture of binder twine in the Central Prison the Ontario Government has hit upon an industry which does not come into competition with a large body of workingmen, and which we hope will have the effect of breaking down the monopoly to some extent which is said to exist between the ropemakers of the Dominion. This will secure the farmers good twine at low prices. Only one kind is manufactured—pure manilla, of extra firmness and quality. The work is under the charge of Mr. James Noxon. In securing the services of such an eminent agricultural implement manufacturer and caterer to the farmer's wants the Government, for once at least, appears to have put the right man in the right place."

A Contrast with Ottawa.

Toronto *Evening News* (Independent Conservative), Aug. 16th, 1893 -"Mowat has been in power in Ontario for over twenty years, and, while there have been complaints of extravagance in the purchase of asylum supplies and of mismanagement in the colonization road expenditure, a serious charge of corruption against his government has yet to be heard. At Ottawa, on the other hand, there has been nothing but scandal for three years past, the latest expose having to do with a bridge on which the outlay, owing to open and shameless stealing, has been treble what it should have been. The Local Opposition tells us that it is necessary to turn Mowat out in order to get behind the scenes and discover whether he really has been as honest as appears on the surface. There is no necessity for a change of government at Ottawa in order to secure information as to the extent of the political rottenness there. The sore is so serious in the latter case that it is impossible to keep it hidden. If there is reason for a change in Ontario, so that we may find out whether we really have been honestly governed or not there is still more reason for a change at Ottawa in order to see if such will not at least partially remove a great evil."

The New Parliament Buildings.

Toronto *Evening Telegram* (Independent), April 5th, 1893 :—"No Province ever got more for its money than Ontario secured in the New Parliament Buildings, and no building was ever erected with less of jobbery and bungling in the work. . . . Altogether, the building is a credit to the Government that planned the work, to Hon. C. F. Fraser, who supervised it, and to the Province, the greatness and the hopes of which are not unworthily typified by the new abode of its Legislature."

Toronto *Evening News* (Independent Conservative), April 4th, 1893 :—"The structure erected is a credit alike to the Government and the people for whom the Government has acted. . . . It is doubtful if an equally good showing can be made in connection with the erection of any other great public building on this continent."

E. E. Sheppard in *Toronto Saturday Night* (Conservative), April 8th, 1893:—"I think that . . . Ontario is getting the worth of her money in the new Parliament Buildings, and though I am no friend of the Government, I think it is in poor taste and belonging to bad morals that a building so economically constructed and so well adapted to the purpose for which it is designed, should not be commended to the public as an example of the honesty and definiteness of purpose which have characterized the Hon. C. F. Fraser in his management of this important public work."

Toronto *Mail*, February 23, 1894 :—" . . . The magnificent pile that has been erected in the Queen's Park at a figure which, notwithstanding its extent, is moderate for the work that has been done, is an ornament to Toronto. . . . . The outlay upon them, in so far as it has been carefully expended, will not be begrudged by anyone who has pride in the Province and its capital."

The *Buffalo Express* :—"The cost of Ontario's New Parliament Buildings is evidence to the effect that public work may be done on a business-like basis. That is a fact which a good many States, and the United States Government have yet to learn." Referring to the Albany Capitol, the *Express* says : "Twenty million dollars has been wasted on a building which was to have cost but three million."

Conservative Praise of the Manhood Voters' Registration Bill.

Toronto Morning *World* (Conservative) :—"Those who have practical experience in the preparation of voters' lists ought to be well disposed towards the Registration Bill introduced by Mr. G. W. Ross."

Toronto *Evening News* :—"The Registration Bill provides for an up-to-date list. Personation is the greatest evil in connection with popular government in Toronto, and if the Mowat Government deserved credit for nothing else it at least does merit praise for the effort it is making to limit the practice."

Toronto *Evening Telegram* (Independent), April 30, 1894 :—"Every word that Hon. A. S. Hardy uttered as to the atrocious frauds in connection with the preparation of the voters' list and the polling of votes in Toronto is true. The Opposition has very little to do when it prolongs the session by an effort to protect the plugger and the personator against the consequences of a registration law for manhood franchise voters. . . Fraud has become an almost decisive element in Toronto elections, and the Ontario Government cannot be too highly praised for passing a registration law as a step towards purity at the polls."

The Toronto *Week* (Independent), May 5, 1894 :—"It is not easy to understand why Mr. Meredith and his followers, and a certain portion of the Conservative press, should have set themselves in so determined opposition to the Registration Bill. . . It will, we think, be conceded by most thoughtful men on either side of politics, that no better method for securing the vote to the largest number of those eligible, and rendering fraud and personation difficult, has yet been devised than an effective registration system."

The Best Way to Sell Timber Limits.

The Canada Lumberman, May, 1894, in comparing the Ontario method of selling timber berths by public auction only, with that of the Dominion by tender, says :—"If we take the prices secured at the (Ontario) sales and compare them with prices obtained by other methods of sale only one conclusion can be reached as to the financial results accruing from the sale of timber limits by auction."

The "Empire" Praises the Park System.

Toronto *Empire* (Conservative), March, 1894 :—"These Parks (Rondeau and Algonquin), will form monuments to Mr. Hardy's foresight, his patriotism and administrative capacity, and will exist for future generations.

A British Columbia Opinion.

The Vancouver, B.C., *World*, an independent journal, said, in 1890 :—"Hon. Oliver Mowat has been in power uninterruptedly for eighteen years. A determined effort now, as on previous occasions, will undoubtedly be made to dethrone him and his Ministry, some of whom are amongst the ablest men in the Dominion. The Opposition in the Ontario House is not strong either in brain power or administrative ability. For many years Mr. Meredith has led a forlorn hope. Himself a popular gentleman, of fair abilities, his following in capacity are hardly equal to the ordinary County Councils of the Keystone Province."

And History is Repeating Itself.

The Winnipeg *Free Press* said in 1890 :—"The real object of their (the Opposition) crusade is to get hold of the revenue and resources of Ontario on the strength of Protestant prejudices. They think there is a chance of riding into power on the Protestant Horse, and they have taken the risk of a fall for the chance of success. Should they fortunately succeed, what a glorious old time they will have dispensing among themselves the spoils of the richest, and heretofore best-governed Province in the Dominion ! It would not be long after they got there before Ontario would lose her proud distinction of being the only country in the world that has no public debt, whose resources are untouched and whose Government is the most honest and economical that was ever known.

[Copies of this circular can be had from Alexander Smith, 34 Victoria Street, Toronto, at $1 per thousand.]

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